

Closing Hours of the Year When One Checks Failures and Hopes for the Future

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
AP World Traveler

London, Dec. 31 — These are the closing hours of the year when one checks on past failures and hopes for the future, and since your columnist is sitting amongst its baggage, waiting to move on to fresh adventures on the continent, it's rather natural we should fall to reviewing our observations here in England during the past month. What have we learned at this first stop of our world tour?

Well, of course, because physical comforts rank so high in the thoughts of the average person, one immediately is impressed by the depressing signs that John Bull has indeed passed through the stages of blood, sweat and tears promised him when the great Churchill assumed the war leadership.

Britain bears terrible scars of battle. Her scale of living in all particulars remains Spartan, for the unhappy reason that her resources still are subnormal and probably will remain so far a considerable time. You don't have to experience this rural and drab food ration for long to observe the great shortage of clothing and shoes, of virtually all necessities, for that matter, which is realizing that England has been through hell and isn't out of the mess yet.

Still, Mrs. Mack and I are agreed that this isn't what impressed us most. The really interesting thing is that despite what the British have been through, they are filled with a mighty determination to repair the ravages of war and restore their country to the prosperity which once again will permit of that tranquil way of life symbolized by the Thames or picnicking in the English countryside. You encounter that attitude everywhere. John Bull has taken an awful knocking about, but he isn't beaten by a long shot, and he wouldn't know it if he were.

The matter which occupies most serious thoughts is the political experiment that the country is making in Socialism. Here we have the astonishing circumstances of a traditionally conservative nation climbing into a leftist covered wagon and driving off into unknown country in search of a new economic homeland.

It's no fluke that Britain has a labor — or socialist — government. Not only did the "workers" vote for it, but many conservative, middle-class folk supported it with the idea of giving socialism a chance to know whether it could produce something better than the old order. Now it should be emphasized that this doesn't mean the country has gone extremist. It represents a slow swing to the left over a long period, which first began to attract attention a generation ago.

The war has accelerated the movement, but at present we can regard the development as one of moderate socialism.

Nevertheless, there is public anxiety over the experiment, and there will continue to be until the new government has demonstrated whether it can deliver the goods. The government itself is displaying great confidence, but is clear that if it should fail in its program there might be a further swing to the left at the next general election.

Next to the paramount question of general prosperity of the country, the British are concerned with early improvement in living conditions. Foremost in his mind, of course, is better food and raiment. Providing that hard is the housing problem, for not only have thousands of buildings been destroyed by bombing but cessation of construction during the war would have put the nation far behind requirements, even if there had been no destruction.

I'm sure the Englishman, even as you and I, does a fair amount of thinking with his tummy. Things will be a lot brighter here when it is possible to walk into a restaurant and order a regular meal with all the trimmings.

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ance in timber and pasture, over-
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Call us for repairs. 615 West
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are required to file estimate or
final return by January 15th. See
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reasonable. J. W. Strickland.
28-3w

Notice

Headlining the program are the
old favorites, the Rose Bowl game
at Pasadena, Cal., the Sugar Bowl
at New Orleans, the Cotton Bowl
at Dallas, Tex., and the Orange
Bowl at Miami, Fla.

The Rose Bowl, great-grand-
daddy of all the post-season events,
again will draw the largest crowd,
with a capacity house of 90,000
fans assured for the battle be-
tween Southern California, making
its Pasadena appearance, and Ala-
bama, coming west for the
sixth time. Alabama, highest scor-
ing team in the school history, was
a perfect 10-0 last season. So-
uthern California's perfect record of
eight straight triumphs in the Rose
Bowl.

Utah's Sugar Bowl with a repu-
tation for sensational close
games at stake, was expected to
have a more exciting battle for
the 72,000 fans who will pack Tu-
ney stadium at New Orleans for
the game between perfect record
Oklahoma A & M and once-beaten
St. Mary's, the kid club which be-

about 1927.

Tommy Armour was there that
year and he, poor, amiable but
rather patronizing weight, had been
encouraged to fancy himself as a
rather fair hand at the game. He
with 150 yards away here and
miraculously tufted on a brush of
dry grass. He was shooting for an
eight and feeling rather puny. After
a night of feverish preparation, he
Cuban grog at an annual rejoicing
of the baseball set, offered, as an
established festival, by Al Lang, a
major league player.

Pegler, according to his method
and style, again blinked, raised his
forefoot, pulled up his head and
jerked his down-swing like a
manacking snakes with
mache.

No, no! Don't anticipate me!
Pegler's shot didn't run joyously
up the little cup but it did tremble
and halt on the very lip so that
even Pegler, on his next essay,
couldn't fail to drop it.

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tournament, the anthologies would
be full of it. But Pegler is a
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